

Washington Update

December 15, 2003

Table of Contents

1. Call for RFPs—Note Deadline
2. CDC Releases First State of CDC Report
3. Omnibus Spending Bill on Bioterrorism
4. Challenges in Achieving Interoperable Communications for First Responders
5. Bioterrorism: A Threat to Agriculture and the Food Supply
6. CSTE Call for Topics
7. NEMSIS XML Draft Posted for Review
8. CDC Announces New Grant Opportunities in Injury Prevention
9. NCSL Releases Report About State Fiscal Successes and Struggles
10. HSC Launches a Web-based Publication of the Annual Report
11. CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report
12. National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
13. NCCLS Announces the Publication of X4-R
14. A National Survey on State Public Health Employee Worker Shortage
15. National Mutual Aid and Resources Management Initiative
16. Ambulance Hazards Targeted
17. FY 2004 Office for Domestic Preparedness UASI Grant Allocations
18. ANSI First Responder Training Survey
19. CDC Funding for 2004 Now Available for Applications
20. Reducing Medical Errors Requires National Computerized Information Systems
21. NIH Clinical Center Expands Clinical Research Training Programs

- 22. Purchase of Products that Require Medical Authorization
- 23. The HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets
- 24. Group Begins Planning for World Health Day
- 25. Opportunity to Review and Comment on Public Safety Communications Documents
- 26. Assistance With State Efforts to Adopt Medical Director Job Description
- 27. Upcoming Events
 - Launching a Career in Cardiovascular Research
 - CAAHEP 2004 Annual Meeting

1. Call for RFPs—Note Deadline

STIPDA announces a Request for Proposals (RFP) for EMS/Injury Prevention Mini-Grants. As a follow-up to a successful EMS-Injury Prevention Roundtable led by STIPDA, the National Association of State Emergency Medical Services Directors (NASEMSD) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration earlier this year, STIPDA has received NHTSA funding to administer a mini-grant program to implement draft roundtable recommendations and increase collaboration between EMS and Injury Prevention programs at state and local levels. The submission deadline for the application is Friday, January 9, 2004. To learn more, visit <http://www.stipda.org/minigrant.htm>.

2. CDC Releases First State of CDC Report

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director, Dr. Julie Gerberding released the first State of CDC report November 14 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. The report chronicles the agency's accomplishments during FY 2003, and provides a snapshot of plans to meet future public health challenges. For more information, contact Marcia Mabee at mmabee@ix.netcom.com.

3. Omnibus Spending Bill on Bioterrorism

The consolidated Appropriations Bill (HR 2673) provides \$1.116 billion to assist public health departments prepare for a terrorist attack with biological weapons, and another \$518 million for hospitals. The omnibus spending bill also includes \$1.625 billion for the National Institutes of Health bioterrorism preparedness and security. To learn more, contact Alice Lipowicz at alipowicz@cq.com.

4. Challenges in Achieving Interoperable Communications for First Responders

Communication interoperability issues have pose several major challenges for federal, state, and local governments. The fundamental barrier to successfully addressing these challenges has been the lack of effective, collaborative, interdisciplinary, and intergovernmental planning. Take note that EMS is included as part of the first responders community in this report. See "the Evolving Definition of First Responders" section on page 4. To view the complete report, visit <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d04231t.pdf>.

5. Bioterrorism: A Threat to Agriculture and the Food Supply

The United States General Accounting Office has found that bioterrorism attacks could be directed at many different targets including crops, livestock, food products (processing, distribution chain, etc.) wholesale and retail facilities, storage facilities, transportation, and food and agriculture research laboratories. Experts believe that terrorists would attack livestock and crops if their primary intent were to cause severe economic dislocation. To view the complete report, visit http://www.humanitarian.net/biodefense/ref/dyckman_senate.pdf.

6. CSTE Call for Topics

The Program Planning Committee for the 2004 Annual Conference of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists is seeking input and suggestions for the meeting program. This is an opportunity to suggest speakers and topics. The submission deadline is Monday, January 5, 2004. For more information, visit <http://www.cste.org/annualconference/calltopics.asp>.

7. NEMSIS XML Draft Posted for Review

The NEMSIS XML draft documents are ready for public review. The documents can be found in the Data Elements section of the NEMSIS website. Public comments are requested, and the submission deadline is Friday, January 9, 2004. For more information, visit <http://www.nemsis.org>.

8. CDC Announces New Grant Opportunities in Injury Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Center for Injury Prevention and Control announces several new grants focused on injury prevention. Letters of Intent are due December 22, 2003, and the application deadline is February 19, 2004. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/grantmain.htm#VIO.

9. NCSL Releases Report About State Fiscal Successes and Struggles

The National Conference of State Legislators (NCSL) released a report describing states' fiscal accomplishments in FY 2003, and challenges they are facing in FY 2004. The report shows that fewer states are reporting budget gaps, but are showing spending overruns in various areas. To learn more, visit <http://www.astho.org/newsletter/newsletters/8/display.php?u=Jmk9OCZwPTM1JnM9MjMx>.

10. HSC Launches a Web-based Publication of the Annual Report

The Center for Studying Health System Change (HSC) decides to break away from the tradition of distributing hard copies of the annual report. Instead, they will produce a Web-based annual report and publish their research electronically starting with the 2002-2003 version. To read the most recent report, visit <http://www.hschange.org>.

11. CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report

The Dec 5 "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report" by the CDC has been posted online and includes articles on cornea transplantation, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, counseling and referral services, HIV, and tuberculosis. To read the complete report, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5248.pdf>.

12. National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month

December has been designated by presidential proclamation as National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month (3D Month), and is supported by hundreds of public and private sector organizations devoted to preventing impaired-driving crashes. To learn more, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5248.pdf>.

13. NCCLS Announces the Publication of X4-R

NCCLS announces the publication of the document X4-R, Planning for Challenges to Clinical Laboratory Operations During a Disaster. X4-R is designed to provide a framework for reviewing the infrastructures that support both clinical and public health laboratory testing and results reporting during large-scale disasters. To read the full report, visit <http://www.nccls.org>.

14. A National Survey on State Public Health Employee Worker Shortage

ASTHO is combining with CSG and NASPE to develop a companion report on the status of the state public health workforce. The survey seeks to gather data about state public health human resources. Results will be incorporated into a comprehensive report for state health officials describing policy initiatives and best practices in all 50 states. To inquire about the results of the survey, contact Tim Stephens at tstephens@astho.org.

15. National Mutual Aid and Resources Management Initiative

This is an initiative undertaken by FEMA within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to enhance the functionality of interstate and intrastate mutual aid agreements to assist emergency managers in acquiring those resources necessary to prepare for, respond to, and recover from any emergency. To learn more, visit http://www.fema.gov/preparedness/mutual_aid.shtm.

16. Ambulance Hazards Targeted

A major overhaul is planned in the way ambulances are operated, designed, and regulated to make them less dangerous to the medics and patients who ride in them. The ambulance industry is working on a comprehensive plan to cut down on the number of deaths and injuries that result from the more than 6,500 ambulance crashes every year. To learn more, visit <http://www.detnews.com/2003/nation/0311/17/a01-327042.htm>.

17. FY 2004 Office for Domestic Preparedness UASI Grant Allocations

The Department of Homeland Security announces an additional \$725 million dollars from the FY 2004 Budget for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), for grants to urban areas within the United States to help enhance the overall security and preparedness level to prevent, respond, and recover from acts of terrorism. To learn more, visit <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/display?content=2218>.

18. ANSI First Responder Training Survey

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is conducting a questionnaire regarding training programs related to homeland security for first responders. The questionnaire explores training topics, sources, standards, and gaps. Responses are due no later than December 31, 2003. For more information, visit <http://public.ansi.org/ansionline/documents/Training.doc>.

19. CDC Funding for 2004 Now Available for Applications

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announces funding opportunities for FY 2004. For more information, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/VIO>.

20. Reducing Medical Errors Requires National Computerized Information Systems

To significantly reduce the tens of thousands of deaths and injuries caused by medical errors every year, health care organizations must adopt information technology systems that are capable of collecting and sharing essential health information on patients and their care. To learn more, visit <http://www.nap.edu>.

21. NIH Clinical Center Expands Clinical Research Training Programs

The NIH Clinical Center has extended its clinical research training programs to reach more than 1,000 physicians and other health professionals this year, in locations as far as Peru and Puerto Rico. For more information, contact Frederick P. Ognibene at 301-496-9425.

22. Purchase of Products that Require Medical Authorization

The purchase of products that require medical authorization may require completion of the Prescription Drug Authorization form or a current copy of the state license. The state license may cover the products that fall under the "legend" category. To review the labeling information, visit

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cdrh/cfdocs/cfCFR/CFRSearch.cfm?FR=801.109>.

23. The HIPAA Transactions and Code Sets

HRSA has developed an Internet-based audio and slide program to guide subscribers to health care plans through the transition to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)'s "Standard Transactions and Code Sets." The program will help to insure that claims continue to get paid by various health insurers. The program is accessible from home or work, 24 hours a day. To learn more, visit www.presentationselect.com/mgma.

24. Group Begins Planning for World Health Day

On December 9, 2003, Peter Casals, on behalf of NASEMSD, met with several stakeholder organizations at HHS offices to begin the planning stages for the 2004 Annual World Health Day. The 2004 event will focus on road traffic injury prevention. The event, sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO), is held every April 7th. For more information, visit <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2004/en/>.

25. Opportunity to Review and Comment on Public Safety Communications Documents

Documents on public safety telecommunications spectrum use in response to a presidential memorandum are available for review. NASEMSD was invited to participate in the meeting that led to this document and Gabriela Gonzalez (DC) represented the association. The submission deadline for comments is Friday, December 19, 2003. For more information, contact Kevin McGinnis at mcginnis@nasemsd.org.

26. Assistance With State Efforts to Adopt Medical Director Job Description

The NASEMSD Medical Directors' representative, Dr. Rick Slevinski, has offered to assist states in the effort to adopt the new medical director job description, and to employ or reemploy state EMS medical directors. He has funding support, which enables him to travel to states where he might be of help in moving progress along. For more information, contact Dr. Rick Slevinski at slevinski@homemail.com.

27. Upcoming Events

Launching a Career in Cardiovascular Research, January 17, 2004, Hyatt Regency Boston, Boston, MA. To learn more, visit <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3017293>.

CAAHEP 2004 Annual Meeting, April 23-24, 2004, Sheraton Uptown Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. To learn more, visit <http://www.caahep.org>.